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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 30 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued at the conclusion of its second session, on 25 March 2004, in Addis Ababa (see annex).

The communiqué presents the situation in Burundi and the Council's decision to renew the mandate of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB) for a period of one month, from 2 April to 2 May 2004, on the understanding that the United Nations Security Council will deploy a peacekeeping mission in Burundi before the end of that mandate.

I should be grateful if the communiqué and my letter could be circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 30 March 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

## Communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

The Peace and Security Council meeting in its second session, on 25 March 2004, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to consider the situation in Burundi, with particular reference to the mandate of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB):

1. *Recalls* decision Central Organ/MEC/AMB/Comm. (XCI), adopted by the ninety-first ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at ambassadorial level held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 2 April 2003, which mandated the deployment of the African Mission in Burundi for an initial period of one year subject to renewal and pending the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to be mandated by the United Nations Security Council, as envisaged in the ceasefire agreements of 7 October and 2 December 2002;

2. *Welcomes* the significant progress made in the search for lasting peace and reconciliation in Burundi and notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the Pretoria Protocols of 8 October and 2 November 2003, as endorsed by the twentieth Regional Summit on Burundi held in Dar es Salaam on 16 November 2003, as well as the marked improvement in the security situation in the country;

3. *Considers* that, with these developments, a conducive environment has now been created for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, as envisaged in the ceasefire agreements entered into by the Burundian parties;

4. *Pays tribute* to the leaders of the region including, in particular, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and El Hadj Omar Bongo Odimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, for promoting the regional peace initiative in Burundi. Further pays tribute to the Deputy President of South Africa, Mr. Jacob Zuma, for his tireless efforts to facilitate a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict in Burundi;

5. *Commends* the crucial role played by the African Mission in Burundi in the consolidation of the peace and reconciliation process, in spite of the severe financial and logistics constraints facing the Mission;

6. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the troop-contributing countries South Africa, Ethiopia and Mozambique — and to the countries providing military observers (Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali, Togo and Tunisia), for their commitment and the sacrifices they have made to ensure the success of the Mission;

7. *Further expresses its appreciation* to Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Senegal for the financial contributions and support extended to AMIB, as well as to the European Union, Belgium and Ireland, which have made pledges of financial support to the Mission;

8. *Recalls* the appeal of the fourth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 March 2004, urging the

United Nations Security Council to authorize, as early as possible, the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Burundi;

9. *Strongly urges* the United Nations Security Council to authorize the early deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission on the basis of the recommendations made by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council on 16 March 2004 and in conformity with the primary responsibility of the Council for the maintenance of international peace and security;

10. *Decides*, in the meantime, to renew the mandate of AMIB for a period of one month, from 2 April to 2 May 2004, on the understanding that the United Nations Security Council will deploy a peacekeeping mission in Burundi before the end of this new mandate;

11. *Appeals* to all the stakeholders in Burundi to continue to extend their fullest cooperation to AMIB to facilitate the implementation of its mandate;

12. *Decides also* to dispatch a mission of the Peace and Security Council to Burundi with a view to expressing the appreciation of the Council and the African Union to the troops, observers and other personnel serving with AMIB, as well as to assess the situation on the ground in Burundi;

13. *Reiterates* the appeal of the African Union to the PALIPEHUTU-FNL of Agathon Rwasa to work towards the speedy conclusion of a ceasefire agreement with the Transitional Government of Burundi and to join the peace and reconciliation process;

14. *Appeals urgently* to African Union member States and the international community at large to provide financial and logistics support to sustain the activities of the African Mission in Burundi, pending the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission;

15. *Encourages* the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Burundian parties to make maximum efforts to ensure the successful conclusion of the transitional period as provided for in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement of 28 August 2000, including taking all the necessary steps for the holding of elections as envisaged in the said Agreement.